

Time 321

Chapter 321 - 321 Liu Mei's power

Liu Jian suddenly halted his movements, as a terrifying aura started to gather around Liu Mei's body.

It was the aura of death.

Although Liu Jian hadn't encountered the aura of death a lot of times in the past, except for when he saw the remnant qi that hadn't dispersed on the desiccated corpses of some strong cultivators, he could still identify it at first glance.

The moment that his eyes had fallen on the black ball of qi in Liu Mei's hand, Liu Jian had the feeling that if he approached a few steps closer to it, he would put himself at risk of losing his life.

This was the feeling that he had as a powerful expert at the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm, as well as a veteran cultivator with ample experience.

Liu Mei however didn't look at her father, and instead, she turned her eyes on the black ball of qi in her hand, before she allowed it to fall on the ground.

The black ball left Liu Mei's body, as it started falling towards the 'Floating Cloud city' below her.

It had only fallen halfway through the air however, before the black ball of qi turned into a black hole that suspended itself in mid-air.

Suddenly, under Liu Jian's and the 'Floating Cloud sect's' Elders stunned gazes, a pair of 3m(10ft) tall undead knights covered in black armor appeared from the black hole in rapid succession.

Each of the knights was holding a 2m(6.6ft) long black greatsword, while wisps of bright red flames were shining in their eye sockets.

The most shocking thing however was the undead knights' aura.

They were at the middle rank 4 of the Spirit realm!

It was really a pair of middle-stage Spirit realm summoned creatures!

Even Liu Jian who had roamed throughout the entire 'Desolate East' and had a lot of experience was stunned in front of this scene.

Let alone seeing something like this, he had never even heard of anything like this before!

Normally, shamans who could summon powerful creatures, could only summon those whose strength was at least a minor realm below them.

Liu Jian had seen in the past an expert at the peak of rank 9 of the Spirit realm from the 'Night star continent' who had comprehended the Dao of Earth, and had summoned a golem at the peak of rank 8.

Although this golem wasn't unrivaled in their 'Desolate East', but aside from the head priest of the 'Golden Buddha temple' and its 2 rank 9 Spirit realm level monks, as well as the master of the 'Poison Hall', there was no one else who was able to contend against it.

Although the golem was inferior to its master in terms of direct combat prowess, its vitality and its defensive prowess was much stronger than his.

It could take hits without feeling any pain, and even if it was destroyed, as long as its master infused enough qi inside it, it would be quickly regenerated.

Looking at Liu Mei's undead knights, Liu Jian could tell that they were similar to that terrifying golem.

He could feel that the black armor around their chests was so sturdy, that it would be almost impossible for him to break it by attacking them head-on.

And yet, despite feeling fear, a surge of excitement had also appeared in Liu Jian's heart.

Didn't that mean that once Liu Mei reached the rank 9 of the Spirit realm, she would practically be invincible in the 'Desolate East' if she fought with anyone else aside from the head priest of the 'Golden Buddha temple'?

Even the master of the 'Poison Hall' would probably not be her match in a one on one fight.

Looking at Liu Mei with gleaming eyes, Liu Jian didn't wait for her to make a move, and instead, his body erupted with his full power as he flew towards her at full speed.

He knew that if he waited for the black-armored knights to entrap him, he would probably be done for.

Liu Jian pointed his white sword towards the undead knights' feet, covering them with a layer of solid white ice before he continued towards Liu Mei.

However, contrary to his expectations, Liu Mei didn't seem to move and try to avoid him, and neither did she cover her sword with her Dao of Ice.

Instead, she simply stared at her 2 undead knights, who forcefully destroyed the ice around their feet in an instant, before they moved to encircle the 'Floating Cloud sect's' sect master.

Liu Jian's 'yellow high-grade martial skill' was actually useless in front of the middle rank 4 Spirit realm knights who quickly entrapped him from both sides.

One of the undead knights raised its huge greatsword and slashed forward at full strength, while the other one attacked Liu Jian from the side, sweeping its greatsword horizontally.

Despite avoiding the first attack from the undead knight who seemed as if he was ready to take his life, Liu Jian was unable to avoid the second attack, and had to raise his white sword to meet it head-on.

However, Liu Jian soon found out, that the undead knight's attack was actually much stronger than Liu Mei's direct sword attack from earlier.

It was actually so strong that he was unable to resist it by himself.

After all, this was the power of a necromancer.

It lied in the creatures that they summoned rather than them fighting head-on.

Under Liu Changpun's, Lan Hong's, and the rest of the Elders stunned eyes, Liu Jian was sent flying from the sky like a cannonball, as he crashed in front of the main hall at the center of the 'inner city'.

Liu Mei watched Liu Jian who was sent flying, without the slightest hints of pity in her heart.

This was her father who didn't care about her once in all these years, and had only changed his mind once he saw the increase in her strength.

She didn't even try to check Liu Jian's condition, and instead, with her undead knights guarding her from the side, she flew towards the inner city, as she headed directly for her mother's location.

Liu Changpun and Lan Hong wanted to stop her, but in the end, they didn't dare to, and could only watch her as she headed deeper inside the 'inner city', before they turned their gazes towards the main hall. Without any more hesitation, they hurriedly flew towards it, to check Liu Jian's condition and make sure that he was still alive.

Chapter 322 - 322 Fatty Fu

Although Liu Jian didn't seem to be moving, Liu Mei knew that he wasn't dead, and at most he had just lost consciousness.

After all, Liu Mei didn't want to kill him in the first place, otherwise, forget about Liu Jian, the entire 'Floating Cloud sect' would be unable to stand up to her undead army.

However, despite not killing him, this didn't mean that Liu Mei had any positive feelings towards her father.

Instead, she directly ignored him, as she continued to fly towards the 'inner city'.

A few moments barely passed before Liu Mei's eyes were locked on a small house near the main hall where Liu Jian had landed.

It was a relatively simple house, but it made Liu Mei suddenly halt in mid-air, as emotions suddenly overflowed her heart.

This was her home for so many years.

This was the place where she and her mother lived.

As Liu Jian's second wife, her mother didn't live in Liu Jian's palace at the center of the city, but she had her own house allocated to her.

After taking a deep breath, Liu Mei didn't step inside the house but instead, she circled around it and walked straight to its backyard, while leaving the 2 undead knights to stand guard near the house's entrance, not allowing anyone to come close.

A beautiful middle-aged woman dressed in silver-white robes was sitting on a chair, and was petting a huge bird that was lying next to her.

It was a huge bird more than 20m(66ft) long, with a yellow beak and bright red wings.

This was the most common use of transportation used by the high-ranking members of the 'Floating Cloud sect', the rank 3 'red-winged condor'.

This 'red-winged condor' however, didn't belong to the sect, but was the personal magic beast of Liu Mei's mother.

Almost as if sensing someone coming, the condor raised its head and looked at the entrance of the backyard, where a white-robed young woman was standing quietly.

Liu Mei smiled gently once she saw the condor, but tears started to flow from her eyes once she saw the middle-aged woman who was still petting the condor's head.

Her facial features were very similar to Liu Mei's, aside from the wrinkles around her eyes, and her black hair that were actually at a shoulder's length.

The beautiful middle-aged woman followed the condor's gaze, and was stunned when she saw Liu Mei staring at her.

Liu Mei opened her mouth a few times, but only a single word came out, one that was filled with all of her emotions

"Mother!"

As this sentence left Liu Mei's mouth, the beautiful middle-aged woman hurriedly stood up from her chair, while her eyes stared at Liu Mei in disbelief.

Soon, her expression was replaced with one of joy, as she flew forward and placed her arms around Liu Mei, hugging her tightly as she said

"Mei'er!"

Hearing her mother's voice, the tears from Liu Mei's eyes didn't stop flowing as she stretched her arms to hug her back.

Although it had only been a year, Liu Mei knew that her mother must have been worried to death for her.

After all, before she had left to enter the 'Vermilion realm', Liu Mei hadn't dared to tell her that she would try to pass through the second test by herself in order to enter the 'Night star continent'.

Liu Mei clearly knew that aside from Liu Changpun who had the entire strength of the entire sect in his palm, any other disciple who wanted to try and pass through the second level would definitely face extreme danger.

Her mother had also participated in the 'Vermilion realm's' opening in the past and knew how dangerous it was.

No matter what, to a mother, it was better to do everything she could and even argue with her husband over Liu Mei's marriage, than having her child risk her life.

Liu Mei however also knew that she wouldn't have been allowed to go, no matter what, if she had revealed her intentions to her mother, so she could only hide this matter in the bottom of her heart.

She had already tried everything she could to change Liu Jian's mind, and had even begged him countless times, but in the end, Liu Jian had simply refused.

Since Liu Mei's marriage could be helpful to unite the sect, making the Meng family even further connected to their Liu family, Liu Jian wouldn't care about his daughter's feelings.

This was the difference in importance between Liu Mei and Liu Changpun.

After hugging Liu Mei, a serious expression soon appeared in Lin Huefeng's eyes, as she looked at her and she asked in a worried tone

"Mei'er, where have you been for the past year?"

Looking at the worried look in her mother's eyes, Liu Mei took a deep breath, before she started to explain everything, starting from the moment she had left the 'Floating Cloud city' to enter the 'Vermilion realm'.

At the same time, Shun Long had a smile on his face as he sat on Little Silver's back in the sky and watched Liu Mei who was explaining her experiences to her mother, before his eyes were quickly drawn to the main hall.

The Elders of the sect had all gathered around the unconscious Liu Jian, while many inner disciples were watching from the distance.

Those who hadn't seen Liu Jian's fight with the black-armored knights had shocked and fearful looks on their faces when they saw the sect master's condition.

They had already heard that something had happened, but none of them knew who could possibly send their sect master into such a miserable state.

As for the Elders of the sect and the few inner disciples who had actually witnessed the scene, none of them dared to talk about it behind Liu Jian's back.

It was only after Grand Elder Lan Hong gave him a healing pill, that Liu Jian finally opened his eyes.

Shun Long however didn't seem to care about Liu Mei's father, as his eyes spotted the familiar silhouette of a chubby young man in green robes.

After thinking for a while, Shun Long's lips curved up, before he left Little Silver's back and disappeared on the spot.

Fatty Fu who had a few other inner disciples of the sect around him, was suddenly stunned when he saw a figure appearing in front of him out of thin air.

The other inner disciples hurriedly stepped back as well, almost unable to realize what was going on.

Seeing the handsome young man in blue-robos who was now standing in front of him, looking slightly different than he did in the past, Fu Li only took a few moments to recognize him, before his eyes widened in disbelief as he blurted out

"Brother Shun?"

Shun Long smiled at Fu Li who was still staring at him in shock, before he nodded his head and said smilingly

"Fatty, long time no see!"

Chapter 323 - 323 Shun Long's question

The shock from Fu Li's face didn't disappear after Shun Long's greeting.

Hearing the familiar voice, the young master of the Fu family felt himself getting dizzy.

At the same time, the inner disciples around him looked at Shun Long with apprehension in their eyes.

Appearing in front of them without a warning or any of them realizing until it's too late... his strength must be at least at the late-stages of the Heaven grade! Isn't that as powerful as the strongest Elders of the sect?

Despite having heard Fu Li calling the young man in front of him 'brother Shun', one of the inner disciples next to Fu Li still took a step forward, and pointing at Shun Long's blue robes, he shouted loudly with an angry expression on his face, in an attempt to attract everyone's attention

"Who are you? Don't you know that this is the inner part of our 'Floating Cloud city'? No matter what's your connection with the Fu family, you must abide by the sect rules!"

Since Fu Li's group wasn't far from the 'main hall', the young man's voice instantly attracted the nearby Elder's attention, including the Grand Elder's. Looking at the Elders around him, the look in Lan Hong's eyes turned serious, as he ordered them to check what was going on.

Without any hesitation, a group of 6 Elders hurriedly flew towards the scene.

It seemed that one bad thing after the other were happening in their sect.

First, their young miss had beaten down their sect master, and now an outsider had even infiltrated the sect?

Liu Mei's matter could still be ignored since she was the sect master's daughter... and she was also strong enough to the point that every one of the Elders were terrified to even speak to her, let alone admonish her... but an outsider entering their 'inner city' was a completely different matter!

Of course, no one of the Elders even thought to associate Shun Long's entry to the sect with Liu Mei's.

After all, Liu Mei was a cold person by nature who didn't speak a lot, let alone have allies who would infiltrate the sect.

Besides, with her current strength, she could probably beat every high-ranking Elder of the sect just by using her 2 black-armored knights, so why would she need any helpers?

With this train of thought, the Elders quickly flew towards the green-robed young man's location.

Fatty Fu instantly snapped out from his daydreaming once he heard these words, and looking at the green-robed young man next to him, his hand flew at a quick speed, heading towards the young man's face.

The young man however seemed to have been prepared for fatty Fu's attack, and he quickly stepped to the side, avoiding Fu Li's slap.

Of course, fatty Fu already knew, that this inner disciple was part of the Meng family. The Fu and the Meng families had a very bad relationship between themselves so a friend of Fu Li's was an enemy of the Meng family.

Shun Long however didn't respond to the green-robed inner disciple of the Meng family as his eyes continued to stare at Fu Li.

Seeing that the Elders had almost arrived at the scene, Fu Li looked at Shun Long and said seriously

"Brother, run! Come and meet me at the Fu family's mansion later! If you get caught here, you will be in huge trouble!"

Even though Fu Li was the young master of the Fu family, in reality, even he didn't have the authority to bring an outsider inside the 'inner city'.

Although he hadn't brought Shun Long here by himself, Fu Li knew, that both he and Shun Long would be put in a bad spot if Shun Long was caught by the Elders.

After all, despite being an outer disciple of the sect, Shun Long had disappeared for the past year, ever since they had entered the 'Vermilion realm'.

No matter what his excuse was, he would be unable to escape the sect's punishment for disappearing.

Shun Long however didn't seem to have put the Elders of the 'Floating Cloud sect' that were approaching them in his eyes, and looking at his friend, his expression turned serious as he said in a solemn tone

"Fatty, let's talk for a bit."

"Eh?"

This was the last exclamation that left Fu Li's mouth, before the huge, invisible figure of an hourglass expanded from Shun Long's body, covering the area around him, forcefully halting the flow of time.

The middle-stage Heaven grade Elders who were just a few tens of meters away from Shun Long seemed to have suddenly frozen in mid-air.

It wasn't just the 6 Elders... even the group of inner disciples around him, including Fu Li, and the green-robed young man from the Meng family were all frozen under the effects of the 'Monarch's Domain'!

Soon, Shun Long turned his eyes on the green-robed inner disciple of the Meng family, and with a cold expression on his face, he punched the man's chest without any hesitation.

Under Shun Long's cold gaze, the early-stage Heaven grade inner disciple of the Meng family still had that venomous smile on his face as he waited for the Elders to arrive, before his body suddenly exploded, turning into droplets of blood that dyed the ground of the 'Floating Cloud sect' a bright crimson color.

It didn't matter if this person was an enemy of Fu Li's or not, since he had intentionally tried to find trouble with him by calling the Elders, Shun Long had no reason to spare him.

Although Shun Long didn't feel that he was a person who killed indiscriminately and would usually not choose to slaughter people without a reason, he was still unwilling to allow this person to go.

Grabbing Fu Li's frozen-like body that was still under the effects of his 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long raised his right hand and opened a space tear before he stepped inside it.

Standing in the air high above the 'Floating Cloud city', Shun Long stopped circulating the 'Monarch's Domain', allowing Fu Li to get back to his senses.

Fatty Fu's eyes instantly widened as he suddenly found himself having disappeared from the 'inner city', and standing high above the clouds!

Lowering his head, Fu Li then saw the outline of a familiar big city, bringing even more shock to his heart.

Shun Long however was still holding his body, not allowing him to fall until he got back to his senses.

Seeing that Fu Li was circulating his qi in order to stay afloat, afraid that he would fall on the ground otherwise, Shun Long didn't continue to support him, and looking at his friend with a serious expression on his face he said in a solemn tone

"Fu Li, there is something I need to know."

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Fatty Fu was stunned for a second.

He knew Shun Long for more than a year, but this was the first time that he had called him Fu Li, as far as he could remember.

He would always call him brother or fatty.

Calling him by his full name meant that there was a serious issue at hand.

Suppressing himself from asking any questions, such as where Shun Long was for the past year, what he had experienced, how did he appear in front of him in the city today, or how they had disappeared from the 'inner city' in an instant and had arrived above the clouds, Fu Li looked at Shun Long and his look turned serious as he nodded his head without saying a word.

Taking a deep breath, Shun Long looked at Fu Li's eyes before he asked the question that he had wanted to ask him for the past year

"Fu Li, 2 years ago, when you told me to become an inner disciple, did you know that every inner disciple was forced to join one of the 5 families regardless of whether they agreed or not?"

Chapter 324 - 324 Fu Li's answer

Ever since he had heard about this issue from Liu Mei, back inside the 'Vermilion realm', Shun Long had always kept this question in his mind.

If Fu Li and Lu Wen really knew about this matter and didn't tell him, then they could no longer be called brother. It would simply mean that they had only approached him in order to rope him into their families.

As for lying to him? Shun Long was confident that even without Little Black's help of sensing the soul fluctuations of someone, he could determine by himself whether fatty Fu was saying the truth or not.

Fu Li's eyes instantly widened when he heard Shun Long's question, and for a moment, absolute silence filled the air around the 2 of them.

Looking at Shun Long's serious eyes, Fu Li took a deep breath before he shook his head and responded in a solemn tone

"Brother, I know about this matter now, but believe me, I had no idea about this when I first met you.

I only found out about it the day before we set off for the 'Vermilion realm'.

... Once a disciple advanced to the Heaven grade and starts comprehending their Dao, the sect would make them swear a Dao oath that they would listen to the orders of the family they have joined.

Back then, I even argued with my grandfather when I learned about it, but in the end, he refused to discuss this matter any further.

He told me that this was how the sect worked, and that it was impossible for me to change it.

After all, this wasn't a matter that involved just our Fu family, but every single one of the 5 strong families of the sect, including the Liu family of the sect master.

Even if my grandfather who is the head of our family wanted to change this, he said that he would also be powerless.

Only the Grand Elder could possibly bring up such a topic to the sect master... but the sect has already been working like this for many years, that my grandfather said that there was no chance for this to change...

Of course, many inner disciples would be dissatisfied. Some would surely think that they are peerless talents that would manage to make their name known throughout the entire continent in the future, so why should they be 'trapped' in one sect for their entire lives?

However, this is the secret rule of the sect.

Once you enter the sect, then you are practically a bird within a cage..."

After a brief moment of pause, a mocking look also appeared in fatty Fu's eyes as he continued

"Hehe, perhaps this is why our sect will never become stronger than it already is.

This is also why the sect master is staking everything in nurturing his own son, hoping that he will lead the sect to a new era in the future.

Hahaha! Originally, I had thought that our sect was really powerful, but it was only until we arrived at the 'Lightning Wasteland' that I understood the real strength of the other sects in the 'Desolate East'.

As for the reason why I didn't tell you about this once we left the sect brother... it was because I had no chance to do so.

That day, when we arrived in the 'Lightning Wasteland', I had planned to silently let you know about this matter once I finished explaining everything about Liu Changpun and his plan regarding the 'Vermilion realm', but after the head priest of the 'Golden Buddha temple' arrived, the Elders of my family watched me tightly so that I wouldn't accidentally cause any issues..."

Shun Long stayed silent for a while, but he seemed to have understood what fatty Fu was trying to tell him.

Since there wasn't a chance for him to inform Shun Long discreetly about the inner matters of the sect that he had learned from his grandfather, fatty Fu couldn't explain it unless it was just the 2 of them left.

After all, even he, as the heir of the Fu family, would be punished heavily if he dared to openly disclose this secret of the sect.

If this became known, the consequences of this matter would throw the entire 'Floating Cloud sect' in a turmoil.

Although this wouldn't affect the inner disciples who had already sworn their allegiance to the big families of the sect, the outer disciples however, would definitely go crazy in the process.

Even though one stone can't cause ripples if it's thrown into a lake by itself, but millions of stones can definitely empty the lake of its water.

After all, the entire sect itself had to count on the outer disciples to continue operating.

The outer disciples were the ones who were working in the mines to bring spirit stones to the sect, and they were also the ones who were working in the shops like the 'Treasure Pavilion' and the 'Mystifying Fragrance pavilion'.

Although a single outer disciple couldn't do anything if he fought against the sect, but if every single outer disciple learned of this issue, their dreams about the future would crumble.

After all, they were only working in the mines and the shops of the sect to get enough sect points to become stronger in the future.

How could they accept the fact that even as inner disciples or Elders, they would have no freedom?!

Of course, even without fatty Fu's explanation, Shun Long had already guessed that this was how the sect was forcing its inner disciples to constantly obey the families that they belonged to;

A Dao oath was the only way for the big families of the 'Floating Cloud sect' to completely control everyone.

A serious look flashed through Shun Long's eyes for a moment, before he turned his eyes back to fatty Fu.

At the same time, Little Black's voice sounded in Shun Long's head, as the black dragon nodded his head and said seriously

"Master, according to his soul fluctuations, he isn't lying to master."

Nodding his head, Shun Long felt a feeling of relief inwardly.

Even without Little Black confirming it, he could feel that Fatty Fu was sincere to him.

This was also the person that he had the closest relations with, in the 'Cultivation world', so knowing that Fu Li was sincere towards him also made Shun Long feel joy as well as relief.

In the 'Cultivation world' where everyone would try to backstab others, Fatty Fu was a real friend.

Seeing that Shun Long's expression had somewhat eased up, Fatty Fu also let out a sigh of relief.

He didn't have many friends in the sect, but Shun Long was definitely an important one.

Just like Shun Long, Fu Li had also kept this matter in his heart since he had no way to inform Shun Long about it, bringing him endless pressure in the process.

As he looked at Fu Li, the look in Shun Long's eyes however once again turned serious as he then continued

"Fatty, did Lu Wen know about this?"

Fu Li's expression changed when he heard Shun Long's question, and after a moment of deliberation, he nodded his head with a serious look in his eyes.

Chapter 325 - 325 Lu Wen's huge scheme

Looking at Shun Long, Fu Li sighed as he answered

"Brother, Lu Wen really surprised me this time.

As soon as he returned back to the sect, he calmly sat to the side and watched his eldest brother and his younger brother fight for the position of the family head.

Of course, his brothers also ignored him as well after he returned, and focused on fighting covertly between themselves.

Since Lu Wen had just returned from the 'Mortal world', it was extremely unlikely that he would try to fight for the position of the family head with his brothers, using his own meager connections.

After all, to become the head of one of the 5 families, you need other people to support you as well, both inside your family, and outside.

Since I am the only successor of the Fu family, I actually never had to face such an issue, but Lu Wen was different.

The Elders of the Lu family had mainly split themselves into 2 battlefronts, one of them supporting Lu Wen's older brother, and the other supporting his younger brother.

Only a small amount of the Elders of the Lu family were actually willing to support Lu Wen.

This is why I always thought that Lu Wen was actually a real friend of mine. Because he still wanted to get close to me, without having to gain anything in the process.

However, Lu Wen acted as if he didn't care about his family's situation, and was only interested to becoming a powerful alchemist, but in reality, he was rearing a secret army in the process.

Just when everyone thought that Lu Wen had completely given up on the position of the family head of the Lu family, more than 20 Heaven grade inner disciples suddenly joined his camp.

The most surprising thing was, that from those inner disciples, one-third of them originally belonged to the Meng family, but they actually switched their allegiance to the Lu family.

As for the other two-thirds. They seemed to have been loyal to Lu Wen even before he left the 'Floating Cloud city' to go to the 'Mortal world' in the past!"

Shun Long's eyes narrowed when he heard this.

He already knew that once someone advanced to the Heaven grade and became an inner disciple, they had to swear a Dao oath to follow the orders of the family that they had joined.

Even if these members had been originally 'supported' by Lu Wen behind the scenes in the past, after becoming inner disciples and joining the Meng family, they would have been unable to follow anyone's but the Meng family's orders!

Since 6-7 inner disciples from the Meng family had suddenly switched sides and became members of the Lu family, this could only mean one thing.

The Meng family had allowed this!

Why would the Meng family ever give up on their own inner disciples?

As Shun Long's train of thought continued, he instantly understood that Lu Wen seemed to have joined hands with the Meng family.

Suddenly, Shun Long's eyes widened as he stared at Fu Li.

He seemed to have understood what Fu Li wanted to say afterwards.

If Lu Wen had really joined hands with the Meng family and became the Lu family's head in the future, then things in the 'Floating Cloud sect' would drastically change.

After all, the Lu family was originally an ally to fatty Fu's, Fu family, and Lan Jinjing's Lan family.

But with the Lu family switching sides, wouldn't that mean that the balance of power in the 'Floating Cloud city' would instantly switch as well?

Lu Wen was also someone who was involved in his family's strife, and unlike Fu Li, it was impossible for him to not know about the matter of the Dao oath.

Slowly, Shun Long's eyes narrowed as he thought of different possibilities.

In the past, he had thought that Lu Wen had started to get close to him in order to repay his father's favor of giving him a pinnacle rank 3 bronze grade cauldron.

After all, to any rank 2 bronze grade alchemist, such a cauldron was a treasure.

Even in the 'Floating Cloud city', pinnacle rank 3 bronze grade cauldrons were rare to find as well.

However, everything seemed to have changed after hearing Fu Li's words.

"Lu Wen really hid himself well."

Once he heard Shun Long's words, Fu Li nodded his head seriously.

At the same time, Shun Long didn't say anything else, but instead, he fell into deep contemplation.

Shun Long had always thought that he was good at judging people, but Lu Wen had really managed to fool him.

Although this scheme was much bigger, and Shun Long didn't seem to be an important part in Lu Wen's plans, he was still used in the end.

Raising his head to look at Fu Li, Shun Long suddenly asked curiously

"What's the current situation of the Lu family?"

Nodding his head, Fu Li didn't hesitate to reveal the inner situation of the Lu family

"In the past 2 years that Lu Wen returned to the sect, he consumed countless pills of the Lu family and is now already an early rank 2 Heaven grade expert... the same level as his older brother!"

As he said the words 'rank 2 Heaven grade expert', the jealousy in the fatty's eyes wasn't hidden in the slightest.

After taking a deep breath, Fu Li's voice instantly turned solemn as he continued with his next words

"With the sudden support of the Meng's family's inner disciples, many of the Elders of the Lu family that were supporting Lu Wen's brothers quickly joined his side instead, making the gap of power between himself and his brothers even larger than before.

Now, even the combined forces of Lu Ming and Lu Chen can't even compare to Lu Wen's own.

Lu Wen's brothers were about to explode from anger when they saw the Elders of their camp quickly abandoning them one after the other, and in the end, they even temporarily stopped fighting with each other, as they both reported Lu Wen's actions to their grandfather.

They said that the meddling of the Meng family in their family's internal issues and the succession of the family head, would surely cause them some serious problems to them in the future.

Of course, if Lu Wen's brothers knew about this, then how could Lu Wen's own grandfather, the previous family head of the Lu family not notice the intervening of the Meng family?!

However, the most surprising thing was, that Lu Wen's grandfather actually didn't do anything about this, and instead, he even aided Lu Wen's actions behind the scenes."

As soon as Fu Li finished speaking, Shun Long immediately understood what was going on.

"The Meng family has already joined hands with the Lu family to a certain extent."

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, his eyes instantly chilled.

Sending his gaze towards the 'Floating Cloud sect' that was right below him, Shun Long then mumbled in a cold voice

"Lu Wen... since you already tried to fool me, you can't blame me for what's about to happen!"

Chapter 326 - 326 Liu Mei's revenge

Fatty Fu shivered the moment that he heard Shun Long's cold voice.

The cold expression however, quickly disappeared from Shun Long's face, and a few moments later, Fu Li could no longer suppress the curiosity inside him, as he looked at Shun Long and asked curiously

"Brother, where have you been for the past 1 year?

Were you really trapped somewhere inside the 'Vermilion realm'?

The sect waited for a long time after the 'Vermilion realm's' closing, but you never returned.

Actually, it wasn't just you, but quite a lot of people disappeared inside the 'Vermilion realm' this time, including Wen Zihao!"

When he mentioned Wen Zihao's disappearance, it was obvious that fatty Fu was shocked almost as much as with Shun Long's disappearance.

After all, Wen Zihao wasn't just the person ranked first in the arena rankings of the sect, but he was also someone who had a unique physique!

The upper echelons of the sect, including the sect master as well as the Elders of the big families, had placed quite a lot of importance to him.

Shun Long smiled when he heard fatty Fu mentioning Wen Zihao, and without hiding anything about this matter, he started to explain how the Dao King of the 'Vermilion realm', Cui Guoliang, had sent everyone who had passed through the second test to the 'Night star continent'.

Fu Li's eyes almost popped out of their sockets, and with a fervent expression that was filled with eagerness as well as disbelief, he looked at Shun Long and asked incredulously

"You- really went to the 'Night star continent'?"

As the heir of one of the 5 big families, it was only natural for Fu Li to have heard rumors about the closest continent next to their 'Desolate East'.

With a smile on his face, Shun Long continued narrating to Fu Li what had happened in the past 1 year, only hiding important things like Cui Guoliang being trapped in the 'Dragon Lord's villa', or secrets about Little Black and the 'Stone of Time'.

As the 2 of them started chatting, fatty Fu was becoming even more shocked.

Not only had Shun Long managed to get together with the goddess of their sect, but he had also traveled with her to various places in the 'Night star continent' and even had a powerful magic beast that could fight even Nascent Soul stage experts!

Although Shun Long didn't go into detail about Little Silver's strength, Fu Li immediately understood that with this magic beast as his mount, Shun Long was probably already unrivaled in the Desolate East.

Suddenly, Fu Li remembered Liu Jian's miserable condition in front of the main hall, and looking at Shun Long, he pointed at him with his finger as he asked incredulously

"Brother... were you the one who attacked the sect master earlier?"

In Fu Li's eyes, even Shun Long shouldn't have been at the level of fighting against the sect master, Liu Jian yet.

He had must have probably asked for Little Silver's help, in order to take care of the peak rank 3 Spirit realm expert so easily.

After all, it had been less than a year since the 'Vermilion realm's' closing, and before they entered, Fu Li clearly remembered that both he and Shun Long hadn't even reached the Heaven grade by then.

No matter what, Fu Li couldn't accept that Shun Long had already reached a level that could threaten the sect master already.

At most, he should have reached the late-stages of the Heaven grade by now.

Fu Li was about to exhale a sigh of relief as he reached this conclusion, when he saw Shun Long shaking his head at him as he answered

"It wasn't me, but Mei'er. She wanted to fight against her father by herself."

The moment that Fu Li heard these words, he could feel his heartbeat that had started to rise.

"By herself?"

Senior sister Liu is at the same level as the sect master?"

Shun Long nodded his head without explaining anything else.

Instead, he extended his right hand, and handed a green-colored spatial ring to the incredulous Fu Li.

Without waiting for him to accept or decline, Shun Long smiled as he started to explain

"Fatty, aside from 2 million low-grade spirit stones in this spatial ring, there are also some top-grade rank 3 pills called the 'Blood combustion pills'.

They can allow a Heaven grade cultivator to quickly advance to the following ranks without any issues.

As top-grade pills, they will not leave any pill toxins inside your body and you can consume them freely.

Of course, the more pills of the same kind that you consume, the lesser the effects of those pills become, but these pills in here should still be enough to help you reach the rank 9 of the Heaven grade and still have some left to spare."

Suddenly, the spatial ring in fatty Fu's hand felt as if it was weighting a mountain.

"Two-million spirit stones?"

2 million?

Even if the 5 big families of the sect pooled all of their spirit stones together, they wouldn't have 2 million!

Fu Li couldn't believe this, and could no longer resist the urge to send his spiritual strength inside the spatial ring and examine the contents.

Indeed, mountains after mountains of spirit stones were piled inside, making his eyes lit up in the process.

Without any inclination to decline, fatty hurriedly placed the spatial ring in his finger and started laughing loudly in joy, while the corners of his mouth had turned into a huge grin that couldn't be suppressed no matter how hard he tried.

He couldn't believe that Shun Long would give him 2 million spirit stones.

Of course, Shun Long wouldn't be stingy with Fu Li.

He still remembered how Fu Li had come to find him and was willing to share the pills that he had received from his father a few months before the opening of the 'Vermilion realm'.

Suddenly, Shun Long's gaze was focused on the small house at the center of the inner city.

Liu Jian who had just regained his senses, had gathered the Elders of the sect and was standing a fair distance away from Lin Huefeng house.

Due to the 2 undead knights who were standing guard at the house's entrance however, neither Liu Jian nor any of the Elders dared to get too close, lest they suffer the same way that their sect master did a while ago.

Liu Jian completely ignored his second wife, and looking at Liu Mei who was standing right next to her and was holding her mother's hands, he had a serious look in his eyes as he asked in a solemn tone

"Little Mei, are you certain that you want to leave like this? You will surely regret this in the future!"

Shun Long's eyes chilled when he heard Liu Jian's words.

Although he didn't dare to directly say it, but his words were meant to threaten Liu Mei, one way or another.

However, since he had promised Liu Mei not to interfere with this matter, Shun Long simply watched Liu Mei as he waited for her answer.

As expected, Liu Mei's eyes narrowed, while Lin Huefeng trembled when she heard the veiled threat behind Liu Jian's words.

Although she was a strong woman, Liu Jian's image in her mind was second to no one.

Looking at her father who was staring at her with a serious look in his eyes, Liu Mei shook her head before she answered with an ice-cold look in her eyes

"No, I won't leave like this.

'Father', I told you that I came here for two things.

The first was to take my mother back... while the second one is to make you pay!"

Liu Jian felt terror gripping his heart for some reason.

It was an instinctive fear that something bad was going to happen.

Taking a deep breath, Liu Mei's eyes first swept through the Elders around Liu Jian, before she sat down on the 'red-winged condor's' back along with her mother, and under Liu Jian's stunned gaze, she flew towards the northern part of the 'Floating Cloud city'.

Suddenly, Liu Jian's eyes widened in disbelief, before he turned his head to look at some of the Elders around him.

It seemed that he suddenly understood what Liu Mei was planning to do, and it was something that left him pale with fear.

Chapter 327 - 327 Meng Shao

There was only one thing in the northern part of the 'Floating Cloud city' that was important to Liu Jian and his plans for the future of the 'Floating Cloud sect'.

The headquarters of the Meng family!

The Elders around Liu Jian who belonged to the Meng family had extremely ugly expressions on their faces as they looked at the young woman on the 'red-winged condor's' back.

Fear slowly overwhelmed them when they realized what Liu Mei was intending to do.

At the same time, Liu Changpun who was standing behind Liu Jian, stared at Liu Mei with his mouth wide open.

"She can't be planning to destroy the Meng family!?"

As this thought flashed through his mind, Liu Changpun found himself feeling uncertain.

The Liu Mei that was on top of the 'red-winged condor's' back didn't seem to be the same Liu Mei that he remembered before they left for the 'Vermilion realm'.

Shun Long's lips curved up as he stared at Liu Mei from the sky. He could see the luxurious manor in the distance with the word 'Meng' written on it, and quickly understood what Liu Mei's intentions were.

At the same time however, Lin Huefeng's expression was completely different from Shun Long's.

There was no pride or joy on her face as she looked at her daughter, but only worry and fear of what was going to happen.

Although she had already heard the most important parts from Liu Mei regarding what she had experienced in the past year, and although Lin Huefeng knew, that the young man named Shun Long whom she had yet to meet was actually somewhere close to the 'Floating Cloud sect', in her mind, Liu Mei was still her weak little girl.

How could she fight with the powerful Meng family?

It was, after all, one of the 5 strongest families in the entire sect.

Even if it was the weakest one among the 5, even Liu Jian had to take their overall strength seriously.

Liu Mei however didn't show the slightest ripples of anxiousness or uncertainty in her eyes.

Instead, her gaze was focused on the luxurious manor in the distance which clearly belonged to the Meng family.

Liu Mei knew, that the Meng family was Liu Jian's biggest supporter inside the sect.

Although she wasn't willing to kill her father or her brother directly, Liu Mei was more than willing to completely wipe out the Meng family from the 'Floating Cloud city'.

This didn't just stem from the fact that they supported Liu Jian or that the young master of the Meng family, Meng Shengyi wanted to marry her despite her refusing time after time, but because the Meng family was also the dirtiest one out of all the families in the 'Floating Cloud sect'.

They were the only family who would often not give compensation to the outer disciples who successfully passed their test in the 'Demonic Mountain Region' after joining the sect, and they were also the only family who was willing to secretly enslave mortals from the countless islands in the 'Mortal world' and have them work in the spirit stone mines of the sect.

Of course, their ideals were closely connected to Liu Jian's own, but as the sect master, Liu Jian couldn't bring up such topics or urge people to blemish their own image by doing that.

However, the patriarch of the Meng family didn't seem to have such moral restraints.

As long as there were benefits that could be exploited, he didn't mind sacrificing countless mortals or cultivators alike.

Although cultivators were often cruel and would kill others without batting an eye, enslaving mortals was a taboo in the 'Cultivation world'.

Usually, even the most heinous criminals would despise enslaving mortals for their own benefits or enjoyment.

Besides, if they were strong enough, they would much rather enslave other cultivators who also had longer lifespans and stronger bodies than mortals as well.

Of course, this could also be considered an excuse in itself by Liu Mei.

Even if the Meng family wasn't an evil family, Liu Mei would have still chosen to attack them.

After all, as the most loyal supporter of Liu Jian, eradicating them was similar to cutting off Liu Jian's left and right arms!

The manor of the Meng family quickly appeared in front of Liu Mei and Lin Huefeng, as well as Liu Jian and the Elders of the 'Floating Cloud sect' who were following behind the 'red-winged condor'.

Although Liu Jian didn't dare to fight against Liu Mei's undead knights again head-on, he couldn't just stay and watch as Liu Mei attacked the headquarters of the Meng family in the inner city.

Some of the Elders around Liu Jian had already been sent inside the manor to secretly inform the old patriarch of the Meng family of the incoming danger.

After all, the 'red-winged condor' wasn't flying at full speed, and Liu Mei didn't seem to be afraid that the Meng family would suddenly turn to flee.

Even if they did, she still believed that she would be able to catch at least the most important of their higher echelons and destroy them by herself.

...

In the main hall of the Meng family's manor, as soon as the old patriarch of the Meng family, Meng Shao heard of what was going on, his face instantly turned angry as well as pale from fear.

Originally, he had never placed any importance on Liu Jian's daughter.

If it wasn't because of his own grandson being so adamant on marrying her, he wouldn't have paid any attention to anything other than her name.

However, the moment that he heard that Liu Jian himself was injured by her, things had drastically changed.

With a serious look, he calmed down his emotions, and sitting back down on his chair at the head of the large table inside the main room, he looked at the 2 Elders who were still bowing in front of him, before he ordered them to gather everyone in this room.

A few minutes later, all of the high-ranking Elders of the Meng family had gathered inside the room, including the current patriarch of the Meng family, Meng Yang, as well as his son, Meng Shengyi.

As soon as Meng Shao explained what was going on, everyone turned their gazes towards the green-robed Meng Shengyi who had a stunned expression on his face.

He wanted to speak and curse Liu Mei, but he knew that the current situation was extremely grave, and his Meng family had a high chance of suffering a disaster!

Indeed, the old patriarch of the Meng family, Meng Shao had a solemn look on his face as he looked at the Elders around him, before he said in a serious voice

"Activate the protective formations!

No matter what that girl's reason is, we will not allow anyone to come to attack our Meng family, not even Liu Jian himself! Even if that girl really is stronger than Liu Jian, I don't believe that she can attack us through all the defensive formations carved by a rank 2 silver grade formation master and leave alive!

Even Liu Jian himself would die if he attacked our Meng family by himself!"

The Elders all nodded their heads with serious looks in their eyes, before they activated the protective formations around the Meng family's mansion.

The moment that Liu Mei arrived outside of the Meng's family's headquarters, both she and her mother, as well as Liu Jian and the Elders who were following behind him, saw countless layers of light completely covering the Meng family's mansion.

Liu Jian could feel the powerful energy fluctuations coming from these layers of light, and immediately understood that the Meng family had activated all of their protective formations.

At the same time, the doors of the Meng family's main entrance opened, and an old man with short white hair dressed in black robes appeared from it.

This was the Meng's family's old patriarch as well as their most powerful Heaven grade expert.

Chapter 328 - 328 Taking sides

Walking out from the main doors of the Meng family's mansion, Meng Shao raised his head to look at the 2 women who were sitting on the back of the 'red-winged condor', before his eyes landed on the white-robed Liu Mei.

Liu Mei's expression however hadn't changed by a lot after seeing the protective formations sprouting from the Meng family's estate.

After all, as the headquarters of one of the 5 big families in the 'Floating Cloud city', how could the Meng family not have their own protective formations?

It was said that they had once recruited a rank 2 silver grade formation master whose cultivation was at the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm, and had him create powerful defensive formations all around the Meng family's headquarters.

However, a rank 2 silver grade formation master wasn't someone whom the Meng family could interact with at will, and they could only ask him to create 5 layers of protective formations in the end.

Of course, even though it was just 5 different layers of protective formations, they could even block out someone like Liu Jian without much effort.

If the sect master of the 'Floating Cloud sect' insisted on attacking the Meng family's headquarters by himself despite seeing the layers of protective formations around it, then he would certainly die in the process, unless... he actually chose to mobilize the entire strength of his Liu family.

It was too bad that the one who was attacking the Meng family today wasn't Liu Jian but Liu Mei.

After staring at the gorgeous young woman in white robes with his cold eyes, Meng Shao soon turned his gaze towards Liu Jian and the Elders of the sect who were hovering in the air a few hundred meters away from her.

It was obvious that Liu Jian was afraid of the 2 undead knights who were flying next to the 'red-winged condor' and didn't dare to get too close.

However, since Liu Mei had decided to attack his family, Meng Shao wouldn't try to reason with her.

Instead, he would try to get Liu Jian to protect his family no matter the cost.

Cupping his hands at Liu Jian, Meng Shao didn't bow, but instead, he simply stared at the sect master of the 'Floating Cloud sect' with a serious look in his eyes before he asked

"Sect master, may I know why you have sent your daughter to attack my Meng family? Could it be that you are somehow dissatisfied with us? In that case, please allow me to express my apologies beforehand. I will punish whoever was responsible for angering the sect master!

My Meng family has always been loyal to the 'Floating Cloud sect' and considers your Liu family our ally, so please explain to me what's going on."

Shun Long who was still hovering in the sky with Fu Li, and was concealed behind the thick white clouds, almost laughed loudly when he heard Meng Shao's words.

With a mocking look in his eyes, he then said smilingly

"Indeed, that guy is really a shameless old fox."

Of course, how could Meng Shao not know what was going on since Liu Jian had personally allowed the Meng family's Elders to return and report the situation to him?

He had already heard that Liu Mei had come to take revenge, and for some reason she had decided to target his Meng family!

However, as an ally of the Liu family, how could he not mention their relationship when his family was in trouble?

Either Liu Jian would have to help him, or he would be considered an incompetent father as well as a traitor.

After all, it was his own daughter who was attacking the Meng family today!

Fu Li nodded his head absentmindedly, but he didn't say anything after hearing Shun Long mumbling to himself.

His eyes were still staring at the scene that was taking place in the 'Floating Cloud sect' with a shocked but also fervent look in his eyes.

This was one of the 5 big families! Was 'senior sister Liu' really going to eradicate them by herself?

As the heir of one of the 5 big families himself, Fu Li clearly knew the power behind each family. Although the Meng family was the weakest one, they were certainly not a pushover. Although he had not seen Liu Mei's fight with Liu Jian and had only heard a brief mention of it from Shun Long earlier, he still didn't believe that Liu Mei was actually capable of destroying one of the big families by herself.

An ugly look had appeared on Liu Jian's face as he looked at Meng Shao with cold eyes, but he didn't directly answer his question.

Instead, he looked at Liu Mei who was still staring at the old patriarch of the Meng family before he said seriously

"Liu Mei, if you dare to attack the Meng family, my Liu family will not let this go!"

The moment that she heard these words, a mocking smile was formed in Liu Mei's lips, while Meng Shao's expression had instantly darkened!

Not let this go? Didn't it mean that Liu Jian would choose to take revenge in the future and would not interfere today?

Of course, how could Liu Jian not understand that Meng Shao was trying to put him in a difficult position earlier? However, between his own safety or the Meng family's, Liu Jian clearly knew which one to choose. Although he couldn't bear to allow Liu Mei to attack them, he couldn't do anything about this matter directly!

Although Meng Shao had not seen Liu Mei's strength, Liu Jian knew clearly how strong the 2 undead knights next to Liu Mei really were. Just the 2 of them by themselves were probably strong enough to break through the Meng's family's defenses!

At the same time, Liu Chanpun stared at his sister and her mother on the rank 3 'red-winged condor' with cold eyes, before he silently flew towards his father.

He then lowered his voice to the volume of a whisper before he said in a tone that was filled with killing intent

"Father, if Liu Mei once sends the black-armored knights to attack the Meng family, isn't that the perfect opportunity to capture her? Without those monsters to protect her, she is definitely weaker than father, let alone the combined strength of all the Elders present here!"

Of course, Liu Changpun's plan wasn't to capture Liu Mei but to secretly kill her.

He had clearly heard his father offering her the position of the sect master earlier!

What was Liu Changpun going to do if he wasn't going to become the sect master? How could he allow the little sister that he had never cared for destroy his plans?

A deep look flashed through Liu Jian's eyes when he heard this, and looking at Liu Mei's back, he seemed to be seriously considering this option, when suddenly, he saw a familiar looking black ball appearing between Liu Mei's hands.

This seemed to be the same black ball that Liu Mei had conjured earlier when she had summoned the 2 black-armored knights!

"Don't tell me that she can summon another one!"

As this thought flashed through Liu Jian's mind, the powerful sect master of the 'Floating Cloud sect' shivered in fear!

However, an even more astonishing scene than what he had previously expected clearly happened.

The black ball filled with Liu Mei's death qi, turned bigger and bigger with every passing second, before Liu Mei finally allowed it to fall on the ground.

Just like the last time however, before the black ball actually touched the ground, it seemed to have turned into a black hole, that resembled a portal.

The Elders of the 'Floating Cloud sect' behind Liu Jian hurriedly took a few steps backwards in shock when they saw the scene that was unfolding in front of their eyes!

One after another, the 3m(10ft) tall, horrifying black-armored knights who were holding the black greatswords, had started to appear from the black hole, until 12 of them had actually arranged themselves in front of Liu Mei in an orderly manner, all of them kneeling in the air on one knee!

But this wasn't the end!

Following the undead knights were dozens and dozens of the jade-white skeletons who were holding their silvery-white bone swords in their hands. Each skeleton was 1.8m(5.11ft) tall with green wisps of ember shining in their eye sockets, giving off a terrifying appearance.

The most scary thing to Liu Jian and the Elders of the 'Floating Cloud sect' however, wasn't the outer appearance of the white skeletons, but their terrifying aura that had reached the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm!

200 skeletons at the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm led by 12 black-armored knights who were at the middle of rank 4!

Even if the skeletons were much weaker than average early rank 4 Spirit realm experts, there were still 200 of them! Just this number was enough to frighten any sect in the Desolate East, aside from the 'Golden Buddha temple and the 'Poison Hall'.

Liu Jian's face had turned pale, and yet there was still a fire of excitement deep in his eyes, hoping that Liu Mei would change her mind!

Liu Chanpun's face however had turned completely pale!

He was planning to secretly kill Liu Mei?

Forget about the Meng family, if this undead army attacked any family in the 'Floating Cloud sect', none of them would be able to resist!

Meng Shao could feel his knees trembling incessantly as he looked at the jade-white skeletons in the air, but when he heard the next words coming from Liu Mei's mouth, he almost passed out in the process.

Standing on the 'red-winged condor's' back, Liu Mei looked at the Meng family's mansion that was covered in layers of protective formations, before she turned her gaze towards Meng Shao and the Elders who were standing behind him, as she said in a cold voice

"Kill them!"

Chapter 329 - 329 Meng Shao's decision

The green flames inside the skeletons' eye sockets flickered when they received Liu Mei's command, but the undead knights were the first ones to respond.

Without any hesitation, they flew towards the layers of protective formation that surrounded the Meng family's mansion, like moths that were attracted to flames.

And yet, the undead knights were quite different from insects, especially when faced against the formations made by a peak rank 3 Spirit realm expert formation master! Under Lin Huefeng's shocked eyes, the black-armored knights effortlessly passed through the first of the 5 protective layers, completely shattering it in the process.

The bright silver-colored runes inscribed by the formation master that the Meng family had hired, had only managed to light up for a single moment, before they instantly turned dim and shattered into countless motes of light that dispersed in the air.

Meng Shao wanted to scream when he saw the formation that he had paid tens of thousands of spirit stones being destroyed just like that, but despite opening his mouth, he was too afraid to make a sound.

Instead, he silently retreated back inside the Meng family's manor with a pale look on his face, as his feet continued to tremble.

Of course, even when they were augmented by the runes of a rank 2 silver grade formation master, how could the formations around the Meng's family's mansion stop Liu Mei's undead army?!

The second layer, the third, the fourth... the fifth!

The layers of protective formations were shattered one after the other, and in less than 10 breaths of time, Liu Mei's white skeletons and her black-armored undead knights had completely surrounded the mansion.

The 3m(10ft) tall undead knights, were the first to enter inside the Meng family's headquarters. The door that covered the headquarters was like a thin piece of paper in front of Liu Mei's powerful undead knights, as an army of more than 200 undead creatures then entered inside.

Without waiting for her mother's response, Liu Mei also had the 'red-winged condor' follow after the skeletons and enter inside.

The Elders situated near the entrance were the first ones to shout out in alarm, but their screams were immediately suppressed as their heads were immediately separated from their necks, while the undead knights led the white skeletons and continued deeper inside.

Although this was just the headquarters that the Meng family had inside the 'Floating Cloud city' and not the place where everyone from the Meng family lived, all of the Elders of the Meng family were situated here.

As for the rest of their family members, they occupied an island in the mortal world by themselves.

All of the Meng family descendants would always come and join the 'Floating Cloud sect' once they reached the middle stages of the Qi condensation stage, but they couldn't obviously all become inner disciples.

Instead, they would still have the status of an outer disciple, but their lives would be much easier and more comfortable than normal outer disciples.

After all, not only would they receive benefits from their family as well, but as members of one of the 5 biggest families, they also enjoyed a certain degree of authority as well.

Of course, some of the early-stage Heaven grade experts of the Meng family would stay back in the 'Mortal world', but overall, they amounted to an even lower number than the number of Heaven grade experts on the mortal island where Shun Long's parents lived.

The blood from the 2 early-stage Heaven grade Elders of the Meng family who were situated next to the entrance, had dyed the greatswords of Liu Mei's undead knights into a dark red color, as the scent of blood slowly filled the corridors of the Meng family's mansion.

Of course, since the formations that were covering the mansion were already broken, the imposing Meng family's Elders were now trapped inside, like a group of sheep surrounded by a pack of wolves.

Despite the fact that the Meng family wouldn't be completely eradicated, even if everyone inside their headquarters died, since they would still have some descendants as outer disciples, as well as an entire mortal island filled with the rest of them, destroying the Meng family mansion wasn't different than completely destroying the Meng family itself.

After all, all of their high-ranking Elders stayed inside the headquarters at all times, leaving very few of them outside the sect.

Every single Elder that died by Liu Mei's undead knights was a powerhouse that the Meng family had used countless resources to nurture!

However, the undead knights and the white skeletons had only found 2 more Elders on their way inside the Meng family's headquarters, before they arrived in front of the main room.

Liu Mei was originally stunned for a moment, seeing that her skeletons and her undead knights had only encountered 4 Elders, all of them at the early stages of the Heaven grade, but after thinking about it for a moment, it made sense.

All of them were probably gathered inside the room in front of her, instead of thinning out their manpower by splitting up.

Without any suspense, the door of the room was broken down by one of the 12 undead knights, revealing the scene inside the main room.

The old patriarch of the Meng family, Meng Shao, their current patriarch, Meng Yang, as well as the young master of the Meng family Meng Shengyi, were surrounded by 8 Elders of the Meng family, all of them at the late-stages of the Heaven grade.

Of course, the strongest among these people was still the old patriarch, Meng Shao, whose cultivation was at the middle rank 9 in the Heaven grade, followed by Meng Yang who was an early rank 9 Heaven grade expert.

In front of the 8 black-robed Elders were 35 Elders and inner disciples of the Meng family, all of them at the early and middle stages of the Heaven grade!

This was the most powerful force of one of the 5 biggest families of the sect, the Meng family!

Although she had already expected this, Lin Huefeng couldn't believe the scene in front of her. The powerful experts of the Meng family were all scared of her own daughter.

Seeing Liu Mei's undead army finally arrive at the main room, Meng Shao's pale expression turned even paler.

He knew that he had no chance to survive or escape against this lineup, even with all of the Elders of the Meng family combined.

In fact, just one of these undead knights was probably strong enough to destroy the Meng family all by itself.

Seeing Liu Mei's skeletons that flooded the room and completely surrounded the Elders of the Meng family, Meng Shao stared at Liu Mei with a cold look in his eyes, before he said with a tone filled with anger and killing intent

"At least tell me the reason why you attacked my Meng family! I do not accept dying without even knowing the reason why!"

Liu Mei's eyes narrowed as she stared at the furious old patriarch of the Meng family, and with a serious look in her eyes she nodded her head before she asked him instead

"How many innocent mortals has your Meng family killed during the years? How many have you forced into slavery in the spirit stone mines, just so your family would get a bigger profit in the end?"

When these people whose lifespan doesn't even reach 100 years died, did you answer their questions when they asked why?"

Seeing the look in Meng Shao's eyes turn into a mocking one, Liu Mei smiled coldly, before she continued

"Of course, this is just an excuse.

After all, I am not a hero of justice.

The real reason I am here is simply because I don't want your family to exist any longer.

You are Liu Jian's biggest support in the sect, so eradicating you is the same as cutting off his arms and legs.

Hehe, it's going to be even worse for Liu Changpun!

Helping the people you have killed all these years take revenge this way is actually just a bonus."

Meng Shao narrowed his eyes when he heard this, before he turned his eyes towards the Elders around him.

Surprisingly, the old patriarch of the Meng family started to laugh, and nodding his head, he pointed at Liu Mei before he said coldly

"Hahaha! Do you think I will allow you to kill me? Come! Let's experience hell together!"

The moment that Meng Shao finished his words, serious looks had appeared deep inside the eyes of the Elders of the Meng family, as they all nodded their heads at the same time.

Meng Shengyi's face however had already turned pale, as he stared at Liu Mei with a gaze filled with killing intent.

He was the young master of one of the 5 biggest families in the sect. Even Liu Mei's status in the sect could be considered lower than his own!

How could he accept that he was going to die?

"N-"

Before he could say a single word however, the old patriarch, Meng Shao suddenly shouted coldly, in a voice that reverberated throughout the entire mansion!

"NOW!"

A terrifying aura erupted from the Elders of the Meng family around him, while a powerful white light had appeared from their bodies, completely drowning everything in sight.

Liu Mei's eyes instantly narrowed, while the 12 undead knights all raised their 2m(6.6ft) black greatswords at the same time.

Outside of the Meng family's headquarters, a serious look had appeared in Liu Jian's eyes, before he hurriedly gathered his qi in his hands, creating a large qi shield.

The Elders around him all did the same, putting their qi inside Liu Jian's qi shield that had completely enveloped their bodies.

...

In the sky above the 'Floating Cloud city', Shun Long stared at the scene in the 'Floating Cloud city' without saying a word.

He and Liu Mei had already felt something similar in the past, but in a much larger scale, so Shun Long could instantly understand what the aura coming from the Meng's family's mansion really was.

This was the aura of 10 late-stage Heaven grade experts, as well as 35 middle and early stage ones detonating their cultivation at the same time!

Indeed, Meng Shao would never allow Liu Mei to kill him! He would rather die by himself and take all of her skeletons down with him!

BOOOM!!

A powerful explosion erupted from the Meng family's mansion, as it spread outwards, towards the rest of the 'Floating Cloud city'!

Chapter 330 - 330 Destruction

The entire 'Floating Cloud city' started to tremble as the powerful explosion coming from the Meng family's mansion started to spread outwards.

Liu Mei's skeletons who were scattered inside the main room and were about to attack the Meng family's Elders, were instantly drowned in the white light, that continued to expand outwards.

Liu Jian had a solemn look on his face when he saw the white light spreading towards him, and without any hesitation, he and the Elders around him all braced for impact.

Although 1 or 2 late-stage Heaven grade cultivators detonating their dantians couldn't threaten Liu Jian who was a peak rank 3 Spirit realm expert, it was different when it involved almost 40 Heaven grade experts doing the same thing simultaneously and at such a small distance.

Liu Jian even suspected that Liu Mei's skeletons and perhaps even her undead knights would most likely suffer some serious injuries this time.

BOOM

Liu Jian's qi barrier started to tremble, while the color from the faces of the Elders around him had instantly vanished.

The terrifying power coming from the Meng family's headquarters was much more powerful than what any Elder from the sect could handle by themselves.

If it wasn't for Liu Jian's qi shield, any Elder caught inside this white light would most likely die in an instant!

Even late-stage Heaven grade Elders weren't an exception to this.

Everyone else aside from Liu Jian and the Grand Elder Lan Hong, who was at the peak rank 1 of the Spirit realm, could feel their qi being drained extremely rapidly, as they used all of their strength to resist the horrifying power coming from the mansion in front of them.

"What's going on?"

"Eart-Earthquake? How can there be an earthquake?"

At the outer part of the 'Floating Cloud city', the outer disciples could feel the earth beneath their feet that was violently shaking, before they all turned their gazes towards the inner city at the same time.

A white ball of light had started to expand from the northern part of the city, completely submerging everything in its path. Luckily, the white light itself had only managed to cover a few buildings in the outer city before it finally stopped expanding.

A few moments later, the white light slowly started to decrease in intensity, almost as if it was dispersing itself in the air around the city.

At the headquarters of the Meng family, in front of the place where the main room previously existed, Liu Mei and her mother, Lin Huefeng, who were both covered by Liu Mei's powerful undead knights, as they watched the scene inside the main room of the mansion with different expressions in their eyes.

Liu Mei hadn't expected Meng Shao to be so decisive and detonate himself along with all of his Elders of his Meng family.

He was really determined to take Liu Mei and her skeletons down with him!

Liu Mei's gaze then slowly fell to 3 of her jade-white skeletons that were the closest to the explosion just now.

Surprisingly, their bones had actually started to crack... but that was all there was to it.

Not a single skeleton was destroyed by Meng Shao's attack.

Aside from 3 of them having their bones broken, there wasn't any other form of injury in Liu Mei's undead army!

Of course, even if the skeletons were obliterated into a pile of dust, Liu Mei could still summon them again by using her death qi.

Healing the broken bones of 3 of her 200 skeletons was barely a drop in the bucket for Liu Mei's qi reserves.

As for the undead knights, there wasn't even a single scratch in their armors.

It was as if the terrifying explosion that had razed the entire Meng family mansion to the ground, couldn't harm the powerful middle rank 4 Spirit realm undead knights in the slightest.

Lin Huefeng observed the scene in front of her with eyes filled with shock.

One of the 5 strongest families of the sect, the Meng family that had a history of almost 1000 years, was actually destroyed in front of her eyes just like that!

Even the bodies of Meng Shao and Meng Yang, the 2 late-stage Heaven grade experts were obliterated in the process, along with the rest of the Meng family mansion.

The only thing that Liu Mei's mother could barely make out in the ruins in front of her, now that the white light was receding, was a few half-destroyed spatial rings.

As soon as the white light disappeared, Liu Jian and the Elders around him who were still standing in the sky, revealed their disheveled appearances after resisting the terrifying explosion that had come from the Meng family mansion.

The Meng family mansion had completely disappeared, leaving behind a pile of debris and dust.

Lowering their gazes to look down below, both Liu Jian and Liu Changpun, as well as the Grand Elder Lan Hong felt the blood from their faces being drained.

Seeing Liu Mei and Lin Huefeng stand in front of the door where the Meng family's main room previously existed, without so much as a single scratch on their bodies, was shocking. But seeing Liu Mei's skeletons being in practically perfect condition was horrifying!

Liu Jian and Lan Hong had expected that Liu Mei's skeletons would have suffered grave injuries if they weren't obliterated to dust, and only the terrifying, huge black-armored knights would be able to resist this explosion!

After all, even an expert like Liu Jian would have, at the very least, suffered serious injuries if he had to face this explosion by himself!

Although Liu Jian knew that he wasn't a match for the powerful undead knights, he had originally estimated that he was much stronger than the jade-white skeletons.

After all, even though he was still at the peak of rank 3 in the Spirit realm, Liu Jian was also confident in defeating an early rank 4 Spirit realm expert by fighting head-on, and despite the jade-white skeletons being at the early rank 4 of the Spirit realm, Liu Jian didn't believe that they were actually strong enough to fight against an early rank 4 Spirit realm expert!

However, aside from a few broken bones in the skeletons' bodies that were the closest to the explosion, the rest of them had practically suffered no injuries!

Liu Jian and Lan Hong both shivered when they noticed this detail!

Didn't that mean that Liu Mei by herself, had at least 200 skeletons at the same level as Liu Jian, and 12 undead knights who were even stronger than him?

As for Liu Changpun, his face had already turned white, while his feet had already started losing their strength.

He had originally prayed that both Liu Mei and Lin Huefeng would be buried along with the Meng family. Although the Meng family was important to him, eradicating Liu Mei was even more important in his heart!

And yet, the scene in front of him was completely different from what he had expected!

Liu Mei was sitting on the 'red-winged condor's back completely unharmed, as she was surrounded by her army of undead.

How could Liu Chanpun accept this? How much stronger had Liu Mei turned compared to him in just a year?

Liu Chanpun had knelt and begged the Dao King of the 'Vermilion realm' to take him on as a disciple, and yet he chose his untalented sister? As these thoughts flashed through his mind, Liu Changpun's face slowly turned warped, filled with both killing intent as well as fear.

After having her skeletons sweep through everything that valuable that still remained in the Meng family's mansion, including Meng Shao's and Meng Yang's spatial rings, Liu Mei had the rank 3 condor who was still shaking in fear to slowly soar in the sky, as she headed towards the outer city.

At the same time, Liu Jian who was about to follow Liu Mei, received a report of the damages that the sect had suffered during this time, causing his face to instantly turn pale.

Despite the fact that no inner disciples had actually died aside from the members of the Meng family... the entire northern part of the inner city had been completely destroyed.

Almost one-fourth of the inner city had actually been razed to the ground, while the damages had also expanded to the outer city as well.

At the same time, at the center of the 'Floating Cloud city', inside Liu Jian's palace, Liu Changpun's mother had also received the report of what had just taken place minutes ago in the Meng family's manor.

After all, this wasn't a matter that could be hidden or suppressed for any reason, as it involved one of the 5 strongest families of the city.

A similar report arrived at the mansion of the Lan family in the southern part of the inner city, as well as at fatty Fu's Fu family, as well as the Lu family.

The destruction of the Meng family only took a few minutes to spread throughout the 4 families of the 'Floating Cloud city', bringing different reactions to the people who learned about this.

The patriarchs of the Lan and the Fu families were actually overjoyed! Despite this weakening the overall strength of the sect somewhat, the Meng family was actually destroyed!

This implicated more things than just the temporary weakening of the sect itself.

Inside the Lu family's mansion, Lu Wen who had already suppressed his brothers and would become the family head in the next 2 years, couldn't believe the report that he had just received.

The Meng family was destroyed by Liu Jian's daughter?

Looking at the black-robed Elder who was standing in front of him, he then asked with his eyes wide open and in a voice that couldn't hide his shock and disbelief

"Liu Mei? Didn't she die in the 'Vermilion realm'?"

The black-robed Elder shook his head, but his expression had also turned ugly. He clearly understood what this matter meant for Lu Wen's own plans!

Different thoughts flashed through Lu Wen's mind one by one.

He suddenly remembered Fu Li coming to visit him a couple of months before the 'Vermilion realm's' opening, and telling him that 'their brother' was actually interested in the sect master's daughter.

He had also mentioned how he and Shun Long had met Liu Mei, Lan Jinjing and Meng Shengyi in the 'Treasure Pavilion', as well as everything else that had occurred.

Lu Wen had of course agreed to keep an eye on Liu Mei after fatty Fu's urging, but in his mind he had scoffed at this idea.

Since Meng Shengyi was interested in Liu Mei, who was Shun Long to go against him?

Like Fu Li, Meng Shenyi was in a different situation than Lu Wen.

He didn't have brothers either, and he was the only heir to the Meng family!

Even if Lu Wen had to give up on Shun Long due to this matter, it wouldn't really affect his plans by too much.

After all, ever since he had returned back to the sect, Lu Wen had already limited his contact with Shun Long, not caring too much about him.

Aside from drinking wine 3 times with him and Fu Li, Lu Wen couldn't care too much about this 'brother' of his.

Although Shun Long was talented, it would certainly take a while until he matured. By then, the position of the family head of the Lu family would already be his.

At best, Shun Long would be able to provide him with the assistance of a high-ranking Elder in the future.

After all, once he entered the inner city and became an inner disciple, Shun Long would have to choose between which family he wanted to join.

Lu Wen was certain that his only options by then would be either his Lu family or fatty Fu's Fu family.

As these thoughts flashed through Lu Wen's mind, he suddenly remembered an important detail.

Didn't Shun Long die in the 'Vermilion realm' along with Liu Mei and the rest?